

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

060938Z Apr 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 DS-00  
EB-00 FFAE-00 FBIE-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00  
DCP-01 NSAE-00 IRM-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00  
/003W

-----DC40DA 060935Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8602  
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001259

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER

LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY

PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/06/11

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE FOREIGN MINISTER THREATENS STATE OF  
EMERGENCY IF SANCTIONS COME TO PASS

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR  
REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

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[1](#)1. (U) FOREIGN MINISTER STANISLAUS MUDENGE, IN AN ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 4, THREATENED THAT THE GOZ COULD DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IF INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED ON ZIMBABWE, ACCORDING TO BOTH OF HARARE'S DAILY NEWSPAPERS ON APRIL 6. MUDENGE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT "IN MOST CASES, DUE TO THE DEMANDS FOR NATIONAL SURVIVAL, COUNTRIES UNDER SANCTIONS USUALLY RESORT TO DECLARING STATES OF EMERGENCY. I DO NOT SAY ZIMBABWE WILL NECESSARILY FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE BY DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY, BUT ONE CANNOT RULE IT OUT." THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT RULE BY DECREE "NEITHER PROMOTES DEMOCRACY NOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN ZIMBABWE, THE PURPORTED OBJECTIVES OF THE ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY BILL BEFORE THE USA SENATE."

[1](#)2. (C) COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT SPARKED THIS OUTBURST BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO RARELY SPEAKS IN PARLIAMENT. HIS REMARKS, HOWEVER, REFLECT FRUSTRATION AT ZIMBABWE'S GROWING ISOLATION AND AT THE MOVES BY SOME -- INCLUDING THE U.S. CONGRESS, THE COMMONWEALTH, AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT -- TO TURN UP THE HEAT ON THE MUGABE REGIME. MUDENGE, ONE OF THE REGIME'S MORE HARD-LINE FIGURES, IS KNOWN FOR MAKING BLUSTERY STATEMENTS THAT REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S GROWING DESPERATION. WE SUSPECT WE WILL HEAR A LOT MORE NOISE IN THIS CONNECTION AND ALREADY HAVE SEEN SOME HAM-HANDED ATTEMPTS BY GOVERNMENT TO ABRIDGE CONSTITUTIONALLY-GUARANTEED FREEDOMS. WE ALSO HAVE HEARD THIS SORT OF TALK BEFORE. THE DIFFERENCE THIS TIME IS THAT MUDENGE WENT STRAIGHT  
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TO A PUBLIC FORUM TO LEVEL HIS THREAT. END COMMENT.

IRVING

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